

WASHINGTON POST  
21 March 1984

AROUND THE NATION

# West German Accused of Spying for East

TAMPA—A West German auto mechanic who has confessed to spying for 17 years was ordered held without bond for allegedly attempting to buy military secrets from an undercover agent for delivery to East German intelligence.

Ernst Ludwig Wolfgang Forbrich, 43, who was born in East Germany, was arrested in Clearwater Beach after a meeting with an FBI agent posing as an Army intelligence officer.

Forbrich made a down payment for a paper marked "secret" and promised the rest of an unspecified sum later when the document was delivered to foreign intelligence operatives, according to the complaint.

The document contained "information the unauthorized disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to cause serious damage to the national defense," according to FBI agent James Patrick Laflin, who signed the complaint.

Federal agents said their investigation indicated that Forbrich had served as a conduit for information to the East German ministry that collects foreign intelligence. An FBI spokesman said the bureau received information in July, 1982, that indicated Forbrich had sold classified U.S. military secrets to East Germany.